

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 /065 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8640

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD GATT US EC

SUBJECT: MTN -- AGRICULTURAL GROUP MEETING

REF: A) USEC BRUSSELS 3202; B) USEC/STR TELECONS

1. HIJZEN HAS NOW GIVEN US THE EC COMMISSION'S RESPONSE TO THE IDEA OF A JOINT US-EC REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE APRIL 15 AGRICULTURAL GROUP MEETING. WHILE THE COMMISSION WOULD NOT OBJECT TO A US REQUEST FOR A ONE WEEK'S POSTPONEMENT, IT WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO MAKE A JOINT REQUEST. ALTERNATIVELY, IT WOULD AGREE TO THE CHAIRMAN'S SEEKING A POSTPONEMENT BUT WOULD RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT ACTING AT THE COMMUNITY'S INITIATIVE.

2. HIJZEN SAID THE COMMISSION'S REASONING IS THAT (A) IT IS READY TO DISCUSS THE AGRICULTURAL ISSUE BILATERALLY WITH THE US AND/OR MULTILATERALLY IN THE MTN AND HAS NO REASON TO SEEK POSTPONEMENT; AND (B) IT IS CONCERNED ABOUT REACTIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES -- ESPECIALLY THE LDC'S-- SHOULD THE US AND THE COMMUNITY APPEAR TO BE JOINTLY

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TRYING TO RUN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE ADDED THAT THE

COMMISSION HAD CONTACTED LONG ON APRIL 10 TO EXPLAIN ITS
ATTITUDE AND ASSUMED THE US WOULD ALSO WISH TO BE IN TOUCH
WITH THE GATT SECRETARIAT.

3. WE SAID WE WOULD REPORT HIJZEN'S COMMENTS TO WASHINGTON
IMMEDIATELY. WE WISHED, HOWEVER, TO REGISTER THE MISSION'S
STRONG DISSAPPOINTMENT AT THE COMMISSION'S REACTION AND
NOTED THAT WE DID NOT FIND THEIR REASONING CONVINCING.
GREENWALD

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To: STATE
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